(a) whether Government are aware that mobile service has not been put in operation or not in operating properly in Khagaria in Bihar due to telephone exchange being in disorder;

(b) if so, by when the mobile service would be launched with the use of modern technology; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Sir, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is providing cellular mobile telephone service in Khagaria town in Bihar since December, 2002 using Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM), a modern technology. The service is working there satisfactorily. However, there may be congestion at some places in Khagaria sometimes during busy hours due to network capacity constraints. BSNL has already taken action to enhance the mobile network capacity by additional 2000 lines in Khagaria during the current financial year.

Shortage of Employees in Gogri Telephone Exchange, Bihar

†3241. SHRI VIDYA SAGAR NISHAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that there is acute shortage of employees in the Telephone Exchange of Gogri, Khagaria in Bihar State;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard;

(c) if not, by when the employees will be appointed; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No Sir. There is no shortage of staff at Telephone Exchange, Gogri.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Broadband connections in Jharkhand

†3242. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the number of broadband connections given in Jharkhand;

(b) whether Government have fixed any target in this regard;

(c) if so, whether the progress in achieving this target is satisfactory; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The number of Broadband Internet Subscribers in Jharkhand are 980 (approximately), based on reports submitted by major Internet Service Providers (ISPs).

(b) to (d) Government has announced Broadband Policy in the month of October, 2004. In this policy, no roll-out obligation or State-wise targets have been specified for the service providers. However, Government has envisioned accelerated growth of Broadband subscribers in the country targeting 3 million and 20 million Broadband subscribers by the end of 2005 and 2010 respectively. The number of Broadband Internet subscribers in the country, as on 30-09-2005 are around 6 lakhs.

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is the dominant Internet Service Provider providing Broadband services in Jharkhand and they have set a target of 9426 broadband connections for year 2005-06 for Jharkhand.

Personal Computer (PC), content and applications are important constituents for overall growth of Internet and Broadband services. Slow growth of PC penetration and lack of content and applications still remains a cause for concern and affect the slow take-off of Broadband services.

Clearance of waiting list of Landline, Mobile and WLL phones in Eastern U.P.

†3243. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of landline, WLL and mobile phones provided by BSNL during the last two years in Mau, Azamgarh, Sultanpur, Ambedkar Nagar and Jaunpur districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the district-wise details of the number of applications received for

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.